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I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Factories

Provision of private rooms for women workers in Madura Mills.

* 1694 Q.—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of women workers in the Madura Mills;
(b) whether there is any place of privacy for them to nurse their babies; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the negative, whether he will be pleased to take immediate steps to provide them with some convenient place for the mothers to nurse their babies?

A.—(a) 2,220.

(b) A big creche half a furlong from the Mills is available.

(c) Does not arise.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—“Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if this creche belongs to the mill authorities?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I think so, but I shall make enquiries.”

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—“May I know if the women are allowed to go there to feed their babies?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“That is my information.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“Will the Government compel the mill authorities to have a baby-home to take care of the babies while the mothers are at work?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The question does not arise.”

Government Press

Alleged grievances of Government Press employees.

* 1695 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent, Government Press, passed an order that the Government Press Union ought not to be registered; and that, if registered, the Government Press employees ought not to be members thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees in Government Press are kept on probation for a number of years before they are confirmed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the workmen in Government Press are sent for medical examination to make them permanent after many years of service;

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees in Government Press are fined heavily for slight mistakes;

(e) whether it is a fact that when the employees in Government Press appealed against the heavy fines imposed upon them to higher authorities, no notice was taken of it;

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(f) whether it is a fact that about 900 workmen were dismissed within five years and that about 1,000 persons were suspended during that period;

(g) whether it is a fact that there is no accommodation for the Government Press employees to take their food in day-time;

(h) the lowest pay or wages an employee gets in the Government Press; and

(i) whether it is a fact that the Government Press employees are not granted leave due to them?

A.—(a) No. The Superintendent, Government Press, has however drawn the attention of the Government Press employees to the orders issued by Government under which no Government servant shall join, or shall continue as a member, of an association which has sought, or may seek, registration as a Trade Union under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(b) No.

(c) It is a general rule that a Government servant should produce a certificate of health at the time of his confirmation.

(d) & (e) No.

(f) This question is not definite in that it does not specify the five years' period referred to. The attention of the hon. Member is however invited to the statement placed on the table of the House on the 21st October 1927 in reply to question No. 802.

(g) No.

(h) The minimum wages paid to juveniles are Rs. 10 per mensem and to employees over 18 years, Rs. 15 per mensem.

(i) No.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Do the Government think that with Rs. 15 per mensem a man can maintain himself and his family?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for opinion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Will the Government increase the minimum wages?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Notice."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member to state whether the Government have any objection to the press employees joining an association not registered under the Indian Trade Union Act?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Notice."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, if the Superintendent has discretion to recognize any association formed by the printers in the press?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Again, notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether there is any period of probation fixed for piece-workers, machine-men, mechanics, binders, and so on?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I do not know, Sir.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know after what length of service these people are confirmed in their posts?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Definite periods are fixed for various posts.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know whether the provision for the production of medical certificate applies to piece-workers or only to permanent employees?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I think it applies only to permanent employees.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know what accommodation there is in the Government Press, Mint Buildings, and the Government Press, Mount Road, for taking the noon-day meal for workmen?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“There is accommodation. But I cannot say exactly what its dimensions are.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know whether there is provision sufficient for the hundreds of employees in the Government Presses for taking noon-day meal?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“There is provision. That is all I can say.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know exactly what provision there is?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“With reference to the answer to clause (h) may I know whether the wages fixed have been worked out on any living-wage basis?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I have no information.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I enquire whether he will consider the question of granting them living wages?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“With regard to the fines spoken of here, may I know whether a binder boy getting Rs. 10 a month was fined sums ranging from 8 annas to Re. 1?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—“May I know whether he will ascertain and set matters right?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“If the hon. Member gives specific instances, I am prepared to look into them.”

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if any steps have been taken to remedy the situation that has been created in the Government Presses by the dismissal of large numbers of men and suspension of still larger numbers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" There is absolutely no such situation created."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Have the Government made any enquiry ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" What is the result of the enquiry ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" There is no such situation."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" What action do they propose to take ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" If there is no situation, where is the necessity for any action ? "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if the Labour Commissioner has ever visited any of the Government Presses in Madras ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" What is the report ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No special report."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I ask if the Labour Commissioner is satisfied that there is accommodation enough for all the employees ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, the Government themselves are not satisfied with the press buildings. There are proposals for improving them."

Motor Vehicles Act

Number of motor cars and accidents in this Presidency.

* 1696 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of private motor cars and of cars and buses plying for hire in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency at the end of 1929 (figures to be given separately);

(b) the number of car and bus accidents in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency in 1929; and

(c) the proportion in which the number of accidents in 1929 has increased or decreased as compared with 1928 and 1927?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information. A report will be called for.